

RH  
D-4464

Excerpts from  
S. ex. doc. 23  
34<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> sess.  
serial 820

MESSAGE.

*To the Senate of the United States:*

In compliance with the resolution of the Senate of the 4th instant, requesting transcripts of certain papers relative to the affairs of the Territory of Kansas, I transmit a report from the Secretary of State and the documents which accompanied it.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, *February* 18, 1856.

[By Telegraph.]

WESTPORT, Mo., *December* 1, 1855.

I desire authority to call on the United States forces at Leavenworth to preserve the peace of this Territory; to protect the sheriff of Douglas county, and enable him to execute the legal process in his hands. If the laws are not executed, civil war is inevitable. An armed force of one thousand men, with all the implements of war, it is said, are at Lawrence. They have rescued a prisoner from the sheriff; burnt houses, and threatened the lives of citizens. Immediate assistance is desired. This is the only means to save bloodshed.

Particulars by mail.

WILSON SHANNON.

His Excellency FRANKLIN PIERCE.

Received, Washington, December 3, 1855, 10 o'clock, 5 min., a. m.

DECEMBER 3, 1855.

Your dispatch is received. All the power vested in the Executive will be exerted to preserve order and enforce the laws. On the receipt of your letter, the preliminary measures necessary to be taken before calling out troops will be promptly executed, and you will then be fully advised.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WILSON SHANNON,

*Governor of the Territory of Kansas.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, SHAWNEE MISSION,  
*Kansas Territory, November* 28, 1855.

SIR: Affairs in this Territory are daily assuming a shape of real danger to the peace and good order of society. I am well satisfied that there exists in this Territory a secret military organization which has for its object, among other things, resistance to the laws by force.

Until within a few days past I have looked upon the threats of